

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 SP-02 NSC-05
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3988
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 CAIRO 6459

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: UNSC, EG, XF
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN MOVE TO REOPEN UNSC DEBATE ON ME REPORT
OF UNSYG

REF (A) STATE 86307, (B) CAIRO 6390

SUMMARY: DISCUSSED WITH FAHMY AT SOME LENGTH OUR
VIEWS ON EGYPTIAN MOVE TO REOPEN UNSC DEBATE ON SUG'S
REPORT, USING TALKING POINTS CITED REFTEL. FAHMY
PROFESSED READ OUR DEMARCHE AS AN "ULTIMATUM" AND
BRISTLED. I ASSURED HIM NO ULTIMATUM WAS INTENDED,
BUT IT ESSENTIAL THERE BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN
US AT THIS CRITICAL PERIOD. FAHMY CHALLENGED OUR
REASONING THAT SIMPLE PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS STATEMENT
NECESSARY TO PRESERVE US ROLE AS MIDDLEMAN IN ME
PEACE PROCESS. HE ARGUED WE SIMPLY PLAYING ISRAELI GAME
AS RESULT OF KISSINGER SINAI II "UNDERSTANDING". I
STRONGLY REFUTED CHARGE. ALLUDING TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS
AND DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY IN OCCUPIED AREAS, FAHMY INSISTED
INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION NEEDS BE MOBILIZED AGAINST
THIS. HE ACKNOWLEDGED USG STATEMENTS ON THE SUBJECT,
BUT ALSO NOTED THEY HAVE NOT BEEN BACKED BY EFFECTIVE
PRESSURE AND HAVE NOT CURBED ISRAELI ACTIVITIES. I
RESPONDED ISRAELIS IN NO DOUBT ABOUT OUR VIEWS AND THAT
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BEST WAY TO RESOLVE ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC
POLICY IN OCCUPIED AREAS IS THROUGH GENUINE MOVEMENT
ON ME FRONT, WHICH WE WANT TO ACHIEVE. OBJECTIIONABLE
UNSC CONSENSUS STATEMENT WILL NOT HELP. AFTER FIRST
SUGGESTING THAT USG ABSTAIN, FAHMY INDICATED WILLINGNESS
TO NEGOTIATE NOT ON OUR DRAFT, BUT ON THE BASIS OF
HIS DRAFT. HE PREPARED DROP REFERENCES TO ISRAELI

SETTLEMENTS AND POLICY OF PALESTINIAN HOMELAND, PROVIDED US REP PUBLICLY REAFFIRMS OUR OPPOSITION TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY IN HIS STATEMENT. FAHMY WOULD ALSO LIKE US REP'S STATEMENT INCLUDE REFERENCE TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S CLINTON STATEMENT ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT INSIST ON THIS. HE ASKED THAT WE LET HIM KNOW OUR REACTION ASAP IN CAIRO TO PERMIT HIM TO INSTRUCT EGYPTIAN PERMREP. MEANWHILE, HE WILL SEND NOTHING TO ABDEL MEGUID. END SUMMARY.

1.MET WITH FAHMY TODAY FOR A LONG TALK ON EGYPTIAN MOVE TO REOPEN UNSC DEBATE ON SYG'S REPORT. I WENT THROUGH ALL THE TALKINGPOINTS CITED REFTEL, EMPHASIZING THAT WE SEE NO CONSTRUCTIVE REASON TO RESUME DEBATE. IF EGYPTIANS BELIEVE IT MUST BE RESUMED ANDBROUGHT TO SOME FORMAL CONCLUSION, THIS SHOULD

BE IN THE FORM OF A SIMPLE PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS ALONG THE LINES OF THE EARLIER STATEMENT WE DISCUSSED WITH THEM IN NEW YORK AND HERE. WE WILL NOT ACCEPT SUBSTANTIVE ELEMENTS OF THE KIND PROPOSED IN THE MARCH DRAFT CONSENSUS AND THE EGYPTIANS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WE WILL NOT HESITATE TO VOTE AGAINST SUBSTANTIVE LANGUAGE, EVEN IF IT CONFORMS TO POSITIONS WE HAVE TAKEN EARLIER IN OTHER CONTEXTS. WE WOULD CONSIDER THIS NECESSARY TO PRESERVE OUR POSITION AS MIDDLEMAN IN PRESENT EFFORTS TO RECONVENE GENEVA CONFERENCE. WE ALSO QUESTION WISDOM OF RESURRECTING ISSUE NOW IN UNSC WHERE LIBYANS AND OTHERS ANTAGONISTIC TO

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US AND EGYPT CAN SEIZE OPPORTUNITY TO DRIVE WEDGE BETWEEN US AND ARABS, PARTICULARLY DURING PERIOD WHEN PRESIDENT CARTER WILL MEET WITH HUSSEIN, ASAD AND FAHD. I PRESSED HIM TO DROP THE MATTER OR, IF HE CONTINUED TO BELIEVE THAT A FORMAL CONCLUSION IS NEEDED, THAT HE AGREE TO A SIMPLE PROCEDURAL CONSENSUS SUCH AS WE HAD EARLIER SUGGESTED.

2. FAHMY WAS VISIBLY UNHAPPY WITH OUR DEMARCH AND BRISTLED. AFTER FIRST MAKING SOME CRITICAL COMMENTS ABOUT WHAT HE CALLED THE "POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT AMBASSADOR YOUNG IS CAUSING ARAB FRIENDS OF THE US" (SEPTTEL), HE INSISTED THAT IT WAS NOT EGYPT WHICH WANTED TO RESUME UNSC DEBATE. OTHER ARAB AND NON-ARAB MEMBERS OF UNSC (UNSPECIFIED) HAVE INDICATED THEIR DESIRE TO RESUME THE DEBATE. AS HE HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED, HE WAS NOT PUSHING FOR A RESOLUTION, BUT A CONSENSUS STATEMENT THAT HAS SOME MEANING. HE COULD NOT ACCEPT OUR "SENDING HIM THREE LINES OF A TAKE IT OR LEAVE

IT BASIS". THIS SMACKED OF AN "ULTIMATUM," WHICH HE WOULD NEVER ACCEPT. I TOLD FAHMY THAT HE WAS TOTALLY WRONG IN DESCRIBING OUR DEMARCHE AS AN "ULTIMATUM." ON THE CONTRARY, IT WAS INTENDED AS A CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORT TO AVOID ANY MISUNDERSTANDING BETWEEN US AT THIS CRITICAL TIME. WE RESPECT HIS VIEW AND ARE WORKING ON THE BASIS THAT GOE ALSO RESPECTS THE GENUINENESS OF OUR POSITION. IT WAS MY HOPE THAT WE COULD DISCUSS THIS MATTER ON A RATIONAL BASIS WITHOUT ANY SUGGESTION OF "ULTIMATUMS" ON ONE SIDE OR ANOTHER.

3. BY THIS TIME FAHMY HAD COOLED A BIT. HE COMMENTED THAT SOMETIMES HE MAY BE WRONG AND SOMETIMES USG MAY BE WRONG. USG, ACCORDING TO HIM, DID NOT PRESENT ITS THREE LINE CONSENSUS STATEMENT UNTIL AFTER EGYPTIAN "FORMULA" WAS PUT FOWARD. HE WAS NOT ADVANCING HIS FORMULA ON A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT BASIS, CONFIDENTIAL

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BUT WAS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH. HOWEVER, WHILE USG MIGHT HAVE A VETO, HE COULD NOT ACCEPT THE PRINCIPLE THAT ISRAEL HAS A VETO RIGHT OVER PROCEDURES FOR WHICH 122 MEMBER STATES HAD VOTED. HE WAS REFERRING TO THE SYG'S TRIP AND ENSUING REPORT.

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. OTTO, S/S-O.

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 INR-07 SP-02 NSC-05
CIAE-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 IOE-00 /053 W
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4. FAHMY CONTINUED HE DISAGREED WITH OUR ESTIMATE OF THE SITUATION. IN HIS VIEW, A CONSENSUS STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE EGYPTIAN DRAFT WILL NOT HURT THE ME PEACE PROCESS. ON THE CONTRARY, IT WILL HELP IT. USG MAY NOT REGARD INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION AS IMPORTANT, BUT GOE DOES. HE CHARGED THAT WE ARE ONCE AGAIN PLAYING ISRAEL'S GAME BECAUSE OF THE "KISSINGER UNDERSTANDING" CONCLUDED AT THE TIME OF SINAI II. I TOLD HIM HE WAS ABSOLUTELY WRONG. IT IS NOT A MATTER OF PLAYING ISRAEL'S GAME, BUT OF KEEPING THE USG IN THE BEST POSITION TO ACT AS IMPARTIAL MIDDLEMAN IN THE DIFFICULT EFFORT TO RECONVENE GENEVA AND GET THE STALLED ME PEACE PROCESS RESUMED. FAHMY THEN ARGUED THAT IF A "GOOD CONSENSUS" CAN BE OBTAINED, SUPPORTED BY ALL THE OTHER UNSC MEMBERS, USG COULD ABSTAIN.

5. ALLUDING TO ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, FAHMY ASKED RHETORICALLY WHETHER EGYPT IS EXPECTED TO ACCEPT THIS WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING TO OPPOSE IT. I REMINDED HIM THAT USG POSITION ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY STATED. HE WAS WELL AWARE THAT WE CONSIDER THEM CONTRARY TO GENEVA CONVENTION, DO NOT AGREE WITH THIS ISRAELI POLICY AND HAVE MADE IT ABUNDANTLY CONFIDENTIAL

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CLEAR THAT THEY CANNOT PREJUDGE FINAL SETTLEMENT. ISRAELIS ARE FULLY AWARE OF THIS (STATE 86306). FAHMY ALLOWED THAT USG HAS STATED ITS POLICY AND INDICATED HIS APPRECIATION. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT USG STATEMENTS HAVE NOT BEEN BACKED BY USG PRESSURE. ISRAELIS IGNORE USG VIEWS AND WE SEEM TO ACCEPT THIS. IT IS NECESSARY, HE ARGUED, TO MOBILIZE INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC OPINION TO CONDEMN ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY IN THE OCCUPIED AREAS. TOLD HIM THAT WE APPRECIATE HIS CONCERNS, BUT SERIOUSLY QUESTION WHETHER ANY UNSC CONSENSUS STATEMENT OF THE TYPE GOE IS SUGGESTING WILL IN ANY WAY ALTER THE ISRAELI POLICY. ON THE CONTRARY, IT MAY SIMPLY SPUR THEM ON. IN OUR JUDGEMENT, ONLY REAL MOVEMENT ON THE ME PEACE FRONT COULD RESOLVE THESE SETTLEMENTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGE PROBLEM.

6. FAHMY THEN SAID THAT HE WAS READY TO ACCEPT NOT OUR DRAFT STATEMENT, BUT A COMPROMISE STATEMENT. HE IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE NOT ON THE BASIS OF OUR DRAFT SETTLEMENT, BUT ON THE BASIS OF THE EGYPTIAN DRAFT STATEMENT. HE REITERATED THAT HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO HAVE AN "ULTIMATUM." HE WAS READY TO DROP THE REFERENCE TO SETTLEMENTS AND DEMOGRAPHIC POLICY AND

TO THE PALESTINIAN HOMELAND PROVIDED THE US REP REITERATES
IN HIS STATEMENT FOR THE RECORD OUR POSITION ON SUCH
ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS POLICY AND PUBLICLY STATES THE NEED
FOR RESPECT OF THE GENEVA CONVENTION AND TO RESPECT
THE RIGHTS OF THE INHABITANTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES.
IF USG REP COULD ALSO REFER TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S
CLINTON STATEMENT ABOUT A PALESTINIAN HOMELAND "THIS
WOULD BE GOOD." IF USG IS AGREEABLE TO SUCH PROCEDURE,
HE COULD "ACCEPT A MILD FORMULA."

7. IN ENDING THE CONVERSATION, FAHMY ASKED THAT WE
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LET HIM KNOW IN CAIRO ASAP OUR REACTION TO HIS
PROPOSAL SO THAT HE CAN GIVE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTIONS
TO ABDEL MEGUID. IN THE MEANTIME, HE WILL NOT INFORM
ABDEL MEGUID OF OUR TALK.
EILTS

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH MR. OTTO, S/S-O.

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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